

"Good Earth" Pulitzer Prize Novel goes to M-G-M

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

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The NEXT SPEAKER needs no INTRODUCTION!

An expectant hush falls over the audience. Every other speaker has been heard from, but the listeners have been waiting patiently for the headliner to talk. All eyes are focussed on him. There is a tenseness in the atmosphere. In next week's issue of this magazine you will read what he has to say.

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CLARK GABLE

**6 out of 10 for
METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER**
The Star Power!

The New Film on Broadway

By Betty Ross

"NIGHT COURT", a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production. Directed by W. S. Van Dyke. Starring Walter Huston.

Before starting on the story of "Night Court" we are moved to express our admiration for the directorial versatility of W. S. Van Dyke. After wielding the megaphone on such totally different types of films as "Tarzan" and "Trader Horn", his handling of "Night Court", an account of political corruption, certainly reveals genius.

Judge Moffett, with an ill-smelling record and an illegal bank account in charge of a clandestine mistress, is under the fire of a Judge Osgood's rigorous investigation. Across the hall from his "love nest", is the modest apartment of Mike Thomas, a young taxi driver, his wife Mary and their baby. In all innocence, young Mrs. Thomas comes upon the judge's bank account in his sweetheart's apartment and when Judge Moffett learns of this, he knows his security is at stake. He sets the wheels of crooked politics in motion at once to have her "framed". She is arrested on a charge of immorality. Her attorney, a tool of the unscrupulous Judge, advises her to plead guilty and get off with a small fine. She does so but gets six months in the workhouse instead, while her child is given to the Children's Society. The husband, fiercely fighting his protest, is "persuaded" to embark on a boat leaving for South America. He leaps off and swims back however in time to confront Moffett, who has just been charged with the murder of Judge Osgood and forces a confession of Mary's innocence from him. Mary Thomas is cleared and Judge Moffett gets "his'n" in the most approved fashion.

This realistic story of corruption in law courts and the railroading of innocent women is from the clever pens of Mark Hellinger and Charles Beehan, but for additional trial scene "punch", Bayard Veiller, dean of courtroom dramatists and author of the never-to-be-forgotten "Within the Law" was pressed into service. Now you know how strong a film production "Night Court" really is.

Walter Huston as Judge Moffett proves his artistry by giving a magnificent performance in an utterly unsympathetic role. He is indeed a great star. Lewis Stone acquits himself convincingly in the short but effective part of the investigating judge. Phillips Holmes as the taxi driver makes a vigorous fighting husband and Anita Page as his framed young wife, wins every heart. Others who lend capable and interesting support are Jean Hersholt as a beer-brewing janitor, Noel Francis as the judge's girl friend, John Miljan, Tully Marshall and Mary Carlisle.

"Night Court" will send you away thinking.

* * * *

"WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND", Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production. Directed by Harry Pollard. Starring Jackie Cooper and Charles (Chic) Sale.

The appealing child star and the variety stage headliner are a good, tear-compelling combination in "When a Feller Needs a Friend". One proof of the popularity of the twain is that fact that a quarter hour after the great Capitol Theatre on Broadway opened its doors, police reserves were sent for to handle the crowds on the sidewalk.

Jackie, in this film, is a little crippled boy, whose too-

delicate handling by his parents and continual twitting by a bullying young cousin, develops an inferiority complex in him. The fact that he cannot play with other children and his parents' too-solicitous care to save him from the slightest exertion makes him a most unhappy youngster. Then along comes a bewhiskered old smalltown car conductor, Uncle Jonas, with an inexhaustible fund of tall stories and the determination to make "Limpy" self-confident. The little cripple learns to box, falls "accidentally" into the lake and is roughened up a bit, becomes more heroic and self-assertive and caps the climax by walloping his chief tormenter in the jaw. Although the specialists drown the parents' hopes by stating that the boy will remain a cripple all his life, he has been saved from becoming a moral and physical weakling by loyal old Uncle Jonas.

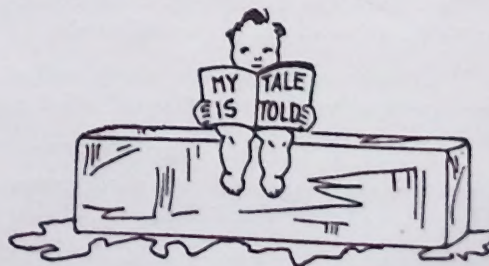
Jackie is Jackie, the greatest young emotional star we have ever had, and always irresistible. "Chic" Sale, the young vaudevillian who makes such a lovable old-timer, is Uncle Jonas. Ralph Graves and Dorothy Peterson are the over-anxious parents. If you like your emotion thick, bring along plenty of handkerchiefs when you go to see "When a Feller Needs a Friend".

Ray Presents

(Continued from Page 4)

IT IS difficult to determine whether "Zwei Herten" is as good a picture as we have heard. If an American company produced it, we would say it was a cheap production; and we would bring out our shotguns and kill off the members of the chorus, one by one, but, since it was made in Germany, we overlooked the settings, etc., and the hefty legs and ample waistlines of the chorines, telling each other, in knowing fashion, that Germans liked plenty of flesh on their women.

Eliminating these angles, "Zwei Herten" is interesting and entertaining. It has some good songs, with the theme waltz song particularly pleasing. There are several scenes, the opening ones in particular, taking you back to Schubert's time, 1818, and the scene at the piano, between the "Madchen" and the Composer-Conductor that are sufficient to give "Zwei Herten" a flair, and an artistic valuation. The story although simple, is good, and believe it, or not, the German language is a big help, whether your audience is educated to German, or not, this picture is guaranteed to bring every German by birth, or ancestry into your theatre; and they will tell all the other little Germans, near and far, that "Zwei Herten" (Two Hearts) is dear to the heart of Germany!



Paramount Famous Players continues lease Griffin Houses, St. Catherines, Chatham, Woodstock

Film Exchange Robbed

Smashing their way into the Film Exchange Building, at 363 Hargrave Street, Winnipeg, some time Tuesday night, June 21, thieves who were apparently well acquainted with the surroundings, jimmied their way into six offices and escaped with the meagre loot of \$70 in cash.

Premises looted were:

Paramount Film Service, Limited, Room 365; no loot, but about \$5 damage to door and desk.

R.K.O. Distributing Corporation of Canada, Room 503; loot, \$8.71 in cash and small exchange.

Canadian Educational Films, Limited, Room 504; loot, \$16.25.

Universal Film Company, Limited, Room 502; loot, \$15 in cash.

Regal Films, Limited, Room 303; loot, \$30 in cash, together with a number of stamps.

Columbia Pictures of Canada, Limited, Room 403; no loot, but slight damage to office furniture.

In each instance, entrance was gained to the various offices in the same way. Using a jimmy, the thugs forced the locks on the doors, and then, in a similar manner, broke open desks and cash boxes.

Discovery of the burglaries were made when the respective managers of the various exchanges came down to open up for the day's business. City police were immediately notified and detectives despatched to the scene.

The thieves, police believe, are familiar with the building.

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BOX 7 — DIGEST

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BOX 5 — DIGEST

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S — Manager Jules Bernstein — A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production, "As You Desire Me", with Greta Garbo, Erich von Stroheim and Melvyn Douglas. Directed by George Fitzmaurice.

UPTOWN — Manager Tom Daley — "Society Girl" with James Dunn and Peggy Shannon. A Fox film, directed by Sidney Lanfield.

TIVOLI — Manager James Lynch — "The Cohens and Kellys in Hollywood", a Universal feature with George Sidney, Charlie Murray and June Clyde. Directed by John Francis Dillon.

IMPERIAL — Manager H. V. Knevels — Barbara Stanwyck in "Shopworn", a Columbia picture, with a supporting cast of Zasu Pitts and Regis Toomey. Directed by Nicholas Grinde.

Announcing the "Theatrephone!"

A simple device enabling those hard-of-hearing or with imperfect hearing to hear the stage or screen show in comfort. Regains those customers lost to you when Talkies first came in, together with their friends that stay home with them. Provides a fine point to advertise the Service you are giving your patrons at no increase in admission prices.

Pays for itself in one year by two average admissions per show, and as there are six phones, any further phones in use is clear profit. Does not connect to or interfere with the present Talkie installation or amplification in any way, is not subject to continual changes in volume, has its own volume control on each head phone changed instantly by the user. Costs a fraction of the cost of around \$1,000.00 usually charged for similar apparatus.

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THE COLEMAN ELECTRIC Co. - 258 Victoria St. - Toronto, Ont.

"Courtesy with Service"

"Red Mill" first of Toronto's nickel shows closes its doors after 27 years

Round About the Studios

Complete Cast of "Skyscraper Souls"

With the addition of John Marston, one-time leading man for Katherine Cornell on the New York stage, the cast which Edgar Selwyn is directing in "Skyscraper Souls" at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer was last week announced as complete.

Marston comes to the M-G-M lot from Warner Brothers, where he played the role of district attorney in the newest Richard Barthelmess picture, "Cabin in the Cotton".

The complete cast of "Skyscraper Souls" now comprises Warren William, Maureen O'Sullivan, Verree Teasdale, Anita Page, Wallace Ford, Norman Foster, Jean Hersholt, George Barbier, Hedda Hopper, Gregory Ratoff, William Morris, Jess Devorska, Helen Coburn and John Marston.

Ayres Relinquishes Part in "Laughing Boy"

Zita Johann was signed on Monday by Carl Laemmle, Jr., to play Slim Girl in "Laughing Boy", the Oliver LaFarge Pulitzer Prize novel, which will be directed by William Wyler. There is still a scramble for the title role. Lew Ayres has relinquished the part. He could not by any kind of make-up be made to look like an Indian. Leading candidates now are Paul Kelly, Kent Douglass and Onslow Stevens.

Three Weeks for Cagney Film at N.Y. Strand

According to Harry Charnas, managing director of Warner Bros. Broadway Theatres, "Winners Take All", now standing them up at the Strand, is headed for at least a three weeks' run. This James Cagney hit will be the first picture since "Taxi!" that held over for more than two weeks.

50 Features from M-G-M for Next Season

Felix F. Feist, General Sales Manager of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, announced at a meeting of branch managers, that there will be fifty features from M-G-M for next season, and 89 shorts, also 104 issues of Hearst Metrotone newsreels. The feature program is divided into eighteen star series. There is no mention, whatsoever, made of Greta Garbo. The only titles to be announced were "Grand Hotel", "Strange Interlude", and "The Outsider".

Beryl Mercer Added to Cast "Smilin' Through"

The cast with which Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer is surrounding Norma Shearer in her next vehicle, "Smilin' Through", gained further distinction with the announcement yesterday that Beryl Mercer had been signed for a character role.

This adds the name of one of Hollywood's most popular supporting players to a roster which already includes Frederic March, Leslie Howard, Norman Foster and O. P. Heggie. Howard and Heggie arrived last week from New York to start work in the new film which Sidney Franklin is directing.

J. Walter Ruben to Direct Radio Broadcast Special

Mystery specialist J. Walter Ruben has been assigned by David O. Selznick, executive vice president in charge of production, to direct R.K.O. Radio's "Phantom of Crestwood" following its forthcoming broadcast as a serial over the network of fifty National Broadcasting Company stations.

The radio-picture story will be told in quarter-hour broadcasts from a serial adaptation by the N. B. C. staff with the final chapter withheld until after the conclusion of a \$6,000 prize contest for a novel ending.

Mix Starts Fifth Universal Film

Tom Mix has started his fifth Universal picture at the old-time gold mining town of Bodie, where a fire recently was reported to have severely damaged this unique forty-niners settlement. Hamilton MacFadden has the megaphone on this Nina Wilcox Putnam story. Margaret Lindsay, Universal's English stage recruit, is leading lady and the cast includes Raymond Hatton, Fred Kohler, Buddy Roosevelt, Edward Cobb, Duke Lee, Richard Cramer, Harry Allen, Herman Nolan and Rosita Marstini.

Questionnaire Sent to Canadian Exhibitors

A questionnaire, under the sponsorship of the Dominion Government, has been sent out to Canadian exhibitors, on the subject of a British film quota for Canada. The results of this questionnaire will be presented at the Imperial Economic Conference, July 21st, at Ottawa.

New Charley Chase Comedy

The first of the new series of Charley Chase comedies for M-G-M release, "The Iron Man", is scheduled to go into production at the Hal Roach studios early this week. The popular comedian, who recently returned from an extensive vaudeville tour, selected Muriel Evans, rising young ingenue, as his leading lady.

The supporting cast includes Heinie Conklin, Clarence Wilson, James Finlayson, May Wallace and Eddie Dillon. Sherwood "Spud" Bailey for the past year, one of the outstanding members of "Our Gang", will play a part in the picture.

RKO Signs Another New York Playwright

Frederick Schlick, New York playwright, has joined the writing personnel at the R. K. O. studio. Author of "Bloodstream", which recently played at the Times Square Theatre, he is noted for his sparkling modern dialogue. Schlick, a graduate of the University of California, began his playwriting career with "Joy of the Surface", which the Provincetown Theatre produced.

M-G-M Renews Miljan's Contract

John Miljan, famous screen "heavy" will continue his career as a malefactor at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios where in the past few seasons he has scored some of his biggest successes. Last week he signed a new long-term contract with the firm.

Miljan, a former stage actor, first won fame as a delineator of villains, but proved his versatility in the deeply sympathetic role of Lieutenant Jack Griffin in "Hell Divers". Among his best recent roles are those in "The Wet Parade", "Are You Listening?" "Politics" and others. He is now playing the district attorney in "Without Shame" with Helen Twelvetrees and an elaborate cast.

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Premier Henry of Ontario urged to change theatre censorship control to Educational Department

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